

the sides of the upper surface slightly less convex transversely, and the beak of the articular face a little less pointed. Its length, measured along the axis, is very nearly one inch; the shorter diameter of the articular face is five lines, and the longer, or transverse, ten lines. The coronary or middle phalanx, is proportionally more elongated than in the living species, and its proximal end rather more triangular. Its length along the axis in front is nine lines, the width of the articular face of the proximal end ten lines, and that of the distal end nine lines. The dimensions of all, or nearly all, of the remaining bones render it very probable that they belonged to the same individual, or at least to one of similar size, and specifically identical. They indicate an equine animal scarcely more than two feet, or possibly two and a half feet in height, although full-grown, as the ossification of the bones clearly proves. Additional parts of the skeleton, especially the teeth, would perhaps show generic characters different from those of the living horse; but in the absence of these, as the remains are evidently distinct from any hitherto described, the species may be named *Equus parvulus*. This makes seventeen species of fossil horses now known to have lived in North America, although until quite recently it was very generally believed that there was none indigenous to the continent.

The bones above described occur in a stratum of grey arenaceous clay, lying nearly horizontally, and apparently of later Tertiary age. The large number of vertebrate remains found together in the space of a few feet indicates a remarkable locality, which, unfortunately, cannot again be reached except by deep excavation; and hence it is greatly to be regretted that so many of the specimens should have been lost to science by being carried away as human relics. Among those secured by the writer, in addition to the equine fossils, were the remains of several species of ruminants, a phalanx of a carnivorous animal about the size of a lynx, and fragments of a land-turtle resembling somewhat the *Testudo neobrarensis*, Leidy, all of which will be more fully described in this Journal at an early day.—*Silliman's American Journal*, November 1868.

#### *Siliceous Spicules in Alcyonoid Corals.*

It has been very generally stated that siliceous spicules are only secreted and developed by the Protozoa.

Prof. Möbius, in his description of four new Gorgoniadæ in the Hamburg Museum, published in vol. xxix. of the 'Verhandlungen der Kaiserlichen Leop.-Carol. Akad. der Naturforscher' for 1861, describes *Solanderia verrucosa* as having a "calcarco-cellulose or cork-like axis, and the epiderm with siliceous spicules," and at fig. 6. pl. 1 he figures the hyaline "Kieselnadeln" or smooth siliceous spicules, having, as all and only such spicules have, a central canal. Prof. Möbius does not seem to be aware that there was any novelty in this structure. I doubt if *Solanderia verrucosa* is a typical *Solanderia*: it appears to be the same Coral that I described as *Homonhyton Gattyæ* in the Proc. Zool. Soc. 1866, p. 27, f. 2.—J. E. GRAY.